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Macho Male Mojo

Luke 15

Thomas Michael Smith
CPC 6/17/01 Father's Day

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- **All of chapter 15 is about God - He is relentless in loving pursuit of us**
- **The first parable is about the lost sheep - the shepherd drops everything to find**
- **The second parable is about the lost coin - the woman looks until she finds**
- **The third parable is about the Father, though we know it as the 'prodigal'**
  - **The younger brother is 'lost outside' (like the lost sheep)**
  - **The older brother is 'lost inside' (like the lost coin)**
- **I thought I understood loss, as a pastor guiding people through grief**
- **Until I thought about losing Ben, and as this thought came, I cried for some time**
- **That tearfulness is an approximation of God's love for us and desire we be found**
- **This passage is also about us - and how we get the chance to re-parent ourselves**

- **We're like the prodigal in that we can learn about returning home**
- **We're like the older brother in that we can learn about forgiveness for past hurt**
- **We're like the Father who embraces His children**

- **The Father is a power that doesn't dominate**
- **The Father is a power that patiently waits**

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, while in prison, wrote that whenever he tried to maintain a measure of power over his life by acquiring food or clothing, he was at the mercy of his captors. But when he accepted and even embraced his own vulnerability, his jailers had no power over him. To accept and embrace vulnerability is the path to the real mojo of being a Father mentored by our loving God.

In the OT, God was seen as lover and husband, stung continually by the infidelities of Israel. In the NT, Jesus has no wife because his spouse is the church. His authority over the church is the basis of Paul's comments in Ephesians 5, a passage which my feminist friends have radically misunderstood. For men are to love their wives as Christ loved the church. And how was that? By sacrificing himself.

Throughout the Scripture, we see one lesson over and over: "God's power is subordinate to His love." It is a power that doesn't dominate and a power that patiently waits. On Father's Day, perhaps we can model after the God who places power beneath love, and who relentlessly pursues us.

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